[redacted] 10-14-77

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of Legislative Counsel

[redacted] (6)(3)

13 OCT 1977

Honorable B. F. Sisk
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Sisk:

Thank you for your letter of 28 September 1977 in which you requested information on behalf of your constituent [redacted] (b)(6) as to whether the CIA conducted experiments at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Palo Alto some 12 or 13 years ago. We regret our misinterpretation of your initial letter of 30 August 1977 on [redacted] behalf. (b)(6)

The Agency is precluded from disclosing the identities of specific institutions by the Director's obligation to protect confidential relationships, and by the Privacy Act of 1974 since such information would tend to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the privacy of individuals involved in these activities. As the Director stated in his testimony to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Human Resources Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research on 3 August 1977,

> ... We should certainly assume that the researchers and institutions which cooperated with CIA on a witting basis acted in good faith and in the belief that they were aiding their government in a legitimate and proper purpose.
>
> I believe that we all have a moral obligation to these researchers and institutions to protect them from any unjustified embarassment or damage to their reputations which revelation of their identities might bring. In addition, I have a legal obligation under the Privacy Act not to publicly disclose the names of the individual researchers without their consent.
>
> This is especially true, of course, for those researchers and institutions which were unwitting participants in CIA-sponsored activities.

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[redacted]

Approved for Release
Date JAN 2000

The Agency has notified those institutions which were involved in these activities. These institutions have been advised that the Agency will not make public their identities and that this is a matter for the institutions themselves to decide. Further, the Justice Department is now studying the issues associated with attempting to identify victims of these research activities. Since Agency records contain no information regarding the identities of subjects of such activities, any affirmative program to notify these individuals will require close cooperation between the Government and the institutions with heavy reliance upon the institutional records.

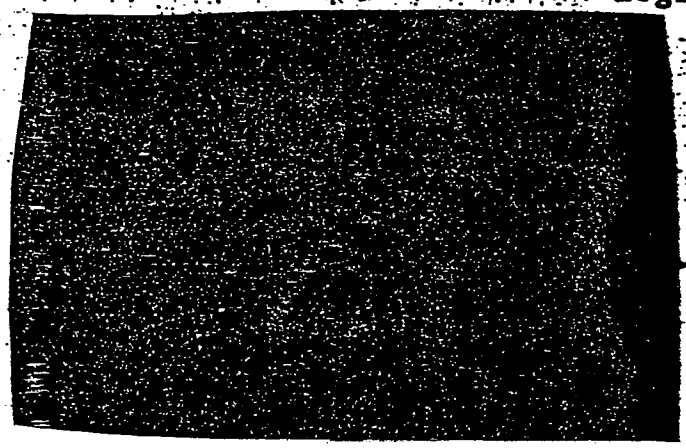
Given these circumstances, the Agency is unable at this time to provide information to third parties regarding the identities of specific institutions which may have been associated with Project MKULTRA. You or your constituent may, as an alternative, wish to approach the particular institution in question directly for the information desired.

We appreciate your interest in this regard.

Sincerely,

/s/

George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel



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